

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 402
By Springer

A RESOLUTION to designate the new bridge spanning the Duck River on State Route 50 in Hickman County as the "Sparks-Garner-Sawyer Memorial Bridge".

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those citizens who during their lifetimes contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, by means of the Department of Transportation, is in the process of re-routing State Route 50 in Hickman County, Tennessee, from Centerville to Interstate 40, which project will provide area residents with better access to all areas of the state and nation; and

WHEREAS, this road is blazing a new trail across scores of acres of land which have traditionally been utilized for farming and agricultural purposes and possess a rich history relative to the agricultural development of Hickman County; and

WHEREAS, along this stretch of new highway, there are plans to construct a bridge spanning the Duck River in the Wrights Bend Community; and

WHEREAS, the location of this bridge bisects property formerly owned and/or farmed by three of Hickman County's best known, loved and respected farmers, H.H. Sparks, Carl Francis Garner and Sim Sawyer; and

WHEREAS, H.H. Sparks farmed land on both sides of the Duck River, which land had been in his family for generations; Mr. Sparks demanded perfection in all aspects of his farm and was a pioneer in developing methods to provide higher yields in his crops; and

WHEREAS, Carl Francis Garner lived and farmed in the Wrights Bend community for 60 years, from the age of 5 until he died in 1974, and the Duck River bottomlands meant everything to him; and

WHEREAS, Sim Sawyer, or “Uncle Sim” as he was known, came to farm in Wrights Bend in 1912, and spent the rest of his life farming and helping others by providing food and financial assistance to those in need; Mr. Sawyer was instrumental in establishing a school and church along the banks of Wolf Creek; and

WHEREAS, the designation of a bridge in honor of a citizen or group of citizens is one of the most appropriate ways to permanently recognize and commemorate such citizen’s contribution to the betterment of his or her community and state; and

WHEREAS, the Hickman County Legislative Body is desirous of having the aforementioned new bridge spanning Duck River on New State Route 50, named in honor of, and as a lasting tribute to, H.H. Sparks, Carl Francis Garner, and Sim Sawyer, because of their commitment to making Hickman County a better place to live; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly always endeavors to comply with the wishes of local governments on matters of local concern whenever it is feasible to do so; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That in memory of three exemplary citizens of Hickman County who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for their fellow human beings, the proposed bridge to span the Duck River on the newly constructed State Route 50 in the Wrights Bend community of Hickman County is hereby designated as the “Sparks-Garner-Sawyer Memorial Bridge”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge as the "Sparks-Garner-Sawyer Memorial Bridge".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation and to the Hickman County Legislative Body.